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ABSTRACT

The first in a series of annual student profiles, this report provides data on student demographics and enrollment trends from spring 1994 through spring 1997 at the three colleges of California's Los Rios Community College District: American River College, Cosumnes River College, and Sacramento City College. Following a brief introduction, data are provided on: total district enrollment; district enrollment by ethnicity, gender, ethnicity by gender, age group; day and evening attendance status; average student unit load; student status (new, transfer returning, special admit or continuing); and district enrollment by college units completed. Highlighted findings include the following: (1) total District enrollment at the end of spring 1997 was 49,400, up from 47,255 in spring 1996; (2) between spring 1994 and spring 1997, ethnic minority students increased from 36.9% to 39.6% of enrollment; (3) the number of students age 40-and-over increased by 3.2% between 1994 and 1997, although the actual proportion of these students varied from semester to semester; (4) in spring 1997, 49.5% of the students were in day classes, 28.9% in evening classes, and 21.7% in both, a pattern which remained stable over the period; and (5) in spring 1997, increases were registered of both students with no previous college units and those with Baccalaureate degrees or higher. (BCY)

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Student Profile Spring 1997

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Los Rios Community College District
Office of Planning and Research

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Los Rios Community College District
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Spring 1997 STUDENT PROFILE

Based upon End of Semester Data

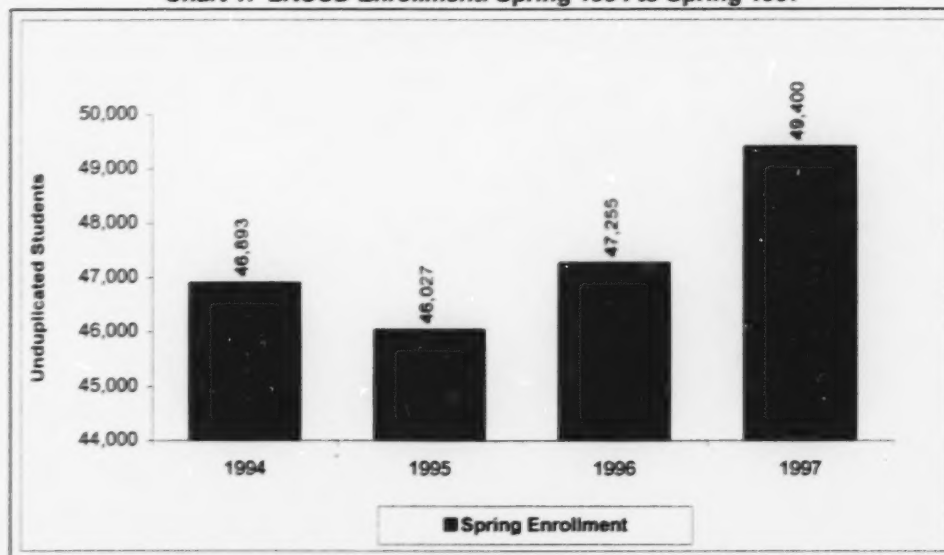
July 1997

This is the first in a series of Los Rios Community College District (LRCCD) spring semester student profiles. These annual summaries provide the District and its colleges -- American River College (ARC), Cosumnes River College (CRC) and Sacramento City College (SCC) -- with data on student demographics and enrollment trends—important information for successful planning to meet the needs of our changing student clientele. This report presents student enrollment data based on end of semester Enrollment Reports generated by staff in the LRCCD Department of Data Processing and Computer Services. Fall Enrollment Reports are generated with an effective date of January 31st following each Fall semester, while Spring Enrollment Reports are generated with an effective date of June 30th. This Student Profile is also based upon demographic data generated from the official End of Semester Institutional Research Database.

District Enrollment

Chart 1 presents district spring enrollment data for the Los Rios Community College District. The enrollment pattern tends to reflect variations in state funding and school-age population trends. Although there was a 1.9% annual decline in enrollment from Spring 1994 to Spring 1995, enrollment began to increase in Spring 1996. In Spring 1996 enrollment increased by 2.7% and by Spring 1997 enrollment increased 4.5%. Enrollment has increased annually beginning in Spring 1996 and continues to increase when compared to End of Semester Fall 1996 data. Spring 1997 enrollment is 2.9% higher than End of Semester Fall 1996.

Chart 1: LRCCD Enrollment: Spring 1994 to Spring 1997

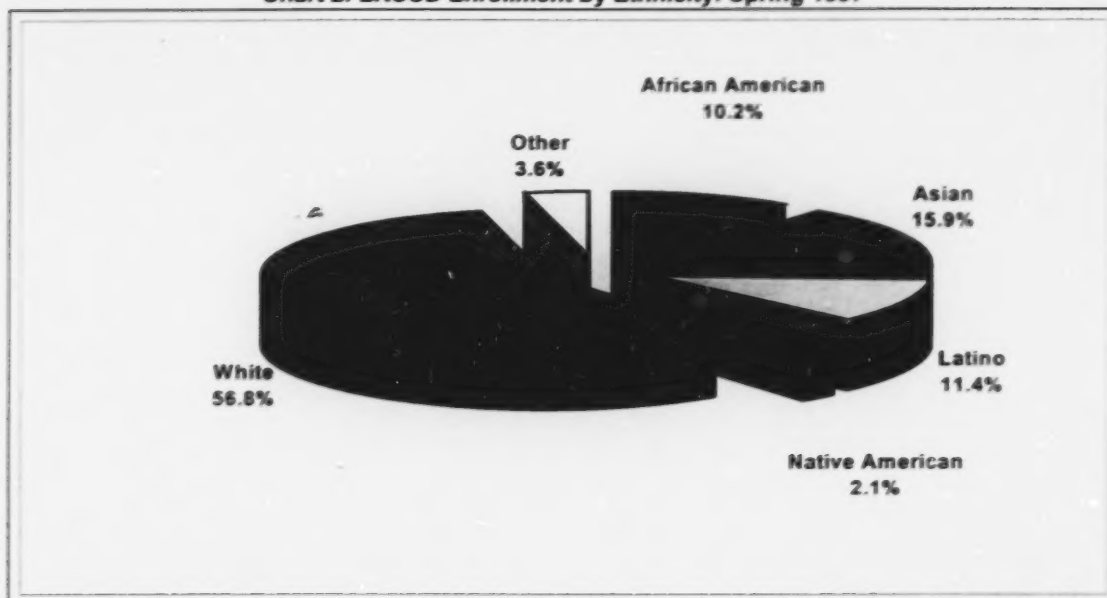


Spring 1997 enrollment increased by 2.1% at the ARC campus, by 9.8% at CRC and by 3.8% at SCC. The proportion of students enrolled at ARC is 39.4%, at CRC it is 24.3% and 36.3% at SCC.

District Enrollment by Ethnicity

Chart 2 illustrates the District's ethnic composition in Spring 1997. The spring distribution of ethnic students at Los Rios is 39.6%, mirroring the Fall 1996 ethnic mix. The total proportion of ethnic minorities among the Spring Los Rios student population continues to increase, from 36.9% in the Spring of 1994 to 39.6% in Spring 1997.

Chart 2: LRCCD Enrollment by Ethnicity: Spring 1997

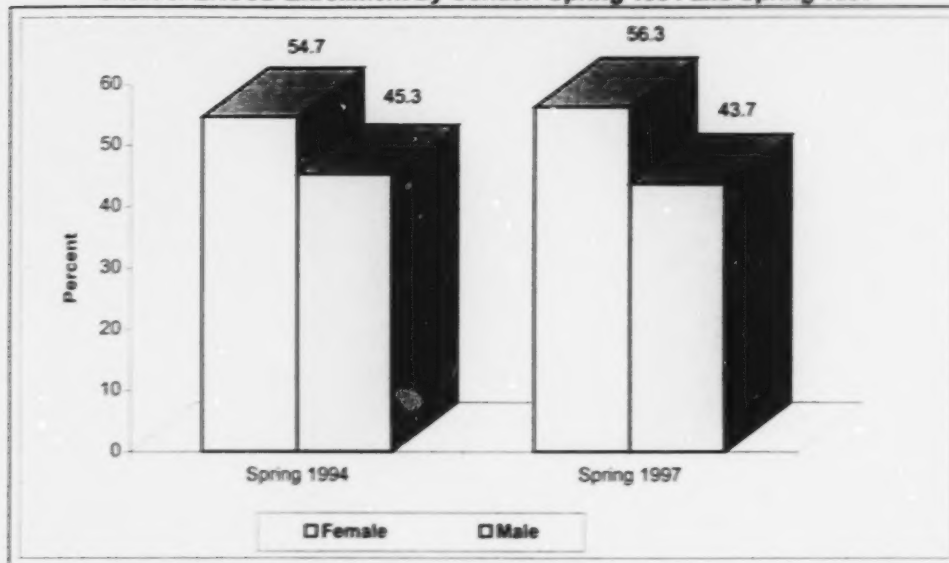


Asian students continue to be the largest minority group enrolled at Los Rios, increasing from 14.4% of all students in Spring 1994 to 15.9% in the Spring 1997 semester. The remaining ethnic composition of the District's Spring 1997 enrollment is as follows: Latinos, 11.4%; African Americans, 10.2%; Native Americans 2.1%; and the remaining 3.6% include students from various other ethnic minority groups and those whose ethnicity was unspecified. The proportion of white student enrollment at Los Rios community colleges continues to decline, from 59.0% of total enrollment in Spring 1994 to 56.8% in Spring 1997.

The 39.6% enrollment of ethnic minority students in Spring is substantially higher than the proportions of the ethnic minority population living in the surrounding Sacramento-Yolo Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) served by the Los Rios colleges. The July 1995 CMSA data reports 28.8% of Sacramento's area population are members of a minority group.

District Enrollment by Gender

Chart 3: LRCCD Enrollment by Gender: Spring 1994 and Spring 1997

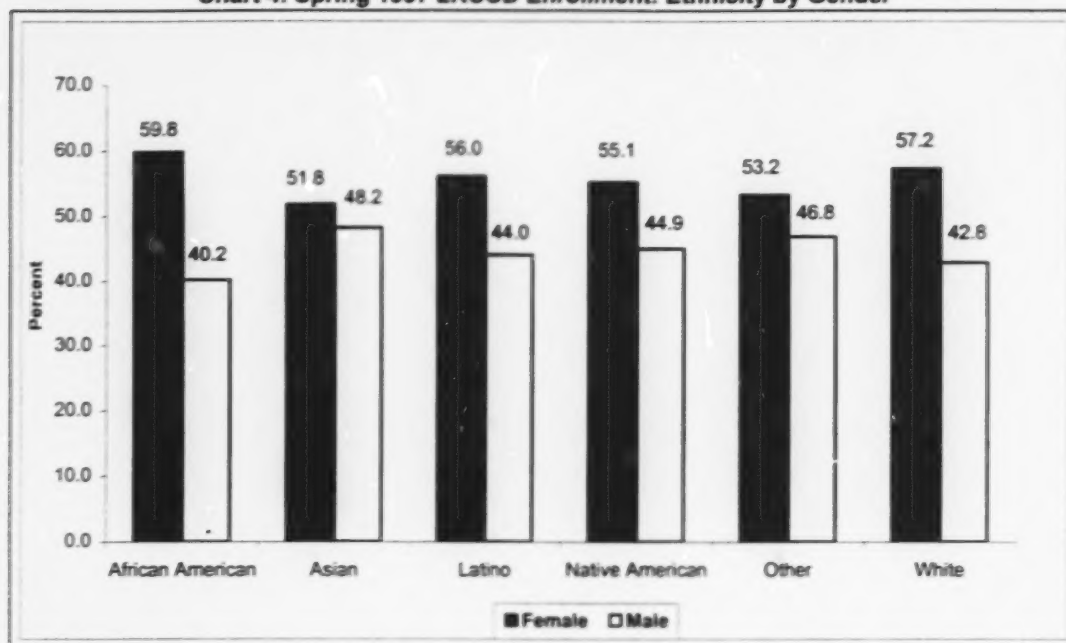


Historically, there has been very little change in the proportions of men and women enrolled at Los Rios colleges fluctuating less than 1% between semesters. Conversely in the Spring, as demonstrated in Chart 3, enrollment by gender has changed somewhat since Spring 1994. The proportions of women enrolled at Los Rios colleges increased 1.6% from Spring 1994 to Spring 1997. A four year comparison of gender distribution between Fall and Spring semesters illustrates that in the Spring there is a lower proportion of women enrolled than in the Fall. The four year average proportion of women enrolled in the Spring is 55.3%, compared to an average female enrollment in the Fall of 56.4%.

CRC's enrollment proportions of women to men for Spring 1997 varies slightly from the District, with 59.0% female and 41.0% male enrollment. ARC's Spring enrollment reflects District gender proportions, with 56.6% of its students female and 43.4% male. SCC's enrollment proportions for Spring 1997 by gender are 54.2% female and 45.8% male, enrolling slightly less women than the entire District.

Spring 1997 District enrollment by gender based on ethnicity supports the above data that a higher proportion of females are enrolled at Los Rios colleges. Chart 4 demonstrates the interesting differences in male and female enrollment in each ethnic group. African American enrollment has a substantially higher proportion of female students (59.8%) than males (40.2%). While Asians are enrolled in a relatively similar proportion of female (51.8%) and male (48.2) students.

Chart 4: Spring 1997 LRCCD Enrollment: Ethnicity by Gender



District Enrollment by Age Group

The analysis of District enrollment by age group requires two discussions: a comparison of Spring 1997 with Spring 1994 and a discussion of the differing patterns of enrollment by age group from Fall 1996 to Spring 1997. Chart 5 exemplifies the differing enrollment patterns between Fall and Spring semesters.

The proportion of students 20-and-under increased from 18.2% of enrollment in Spring 1994 to 19.2% in Spring 1997. The proportions of students 21-24 declined somewhat in Spring 1997, from 23.0% in Spring 1994 to 21.5% in the Spring of 1997. In Spring 1997, 59.3% of all students enrolled were 25 or older. The most significant change within the age category is found in those students enrolled who are 40 and over, increasing from 18.8% in Spring 1994 to 22.0% of total student enrollment in Spring 1997.

Chart 5: LRCCD Enrollment by Age: Spring 1994, Spring 1997 and Fall 1996

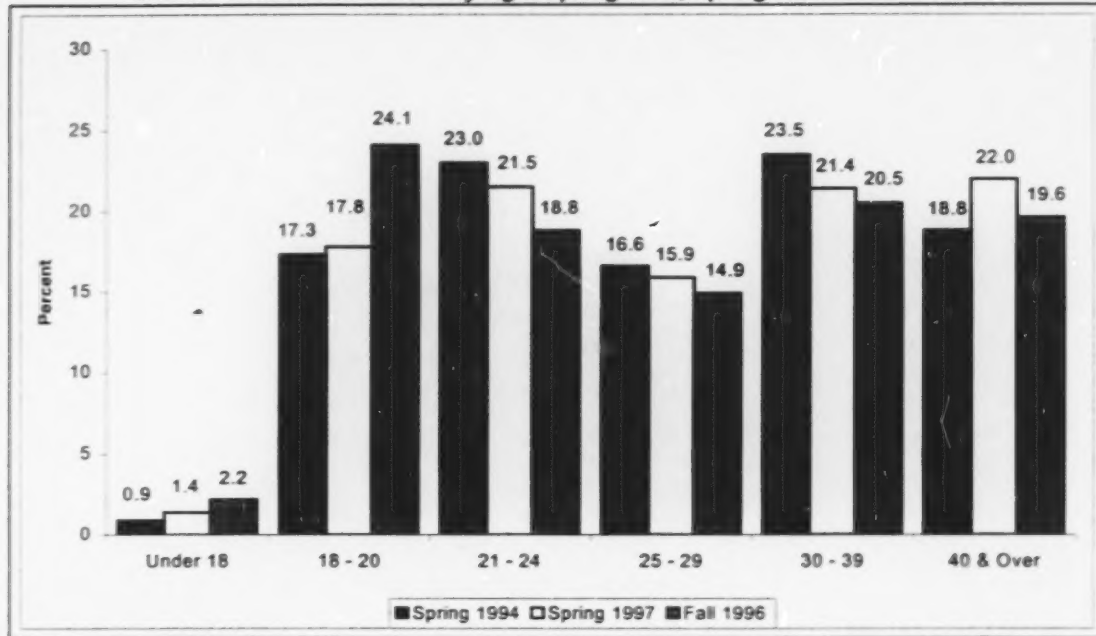


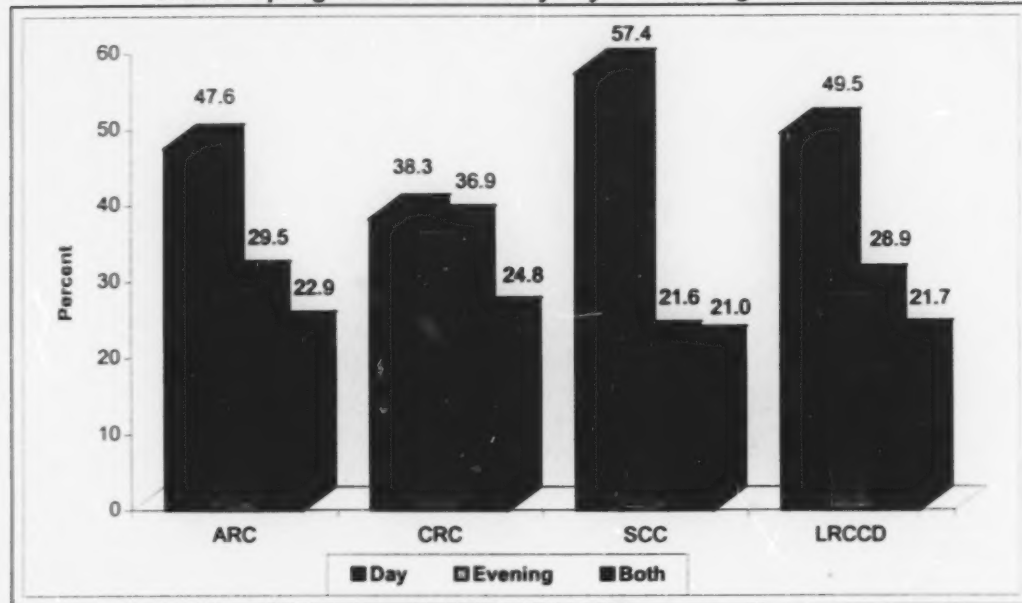
Chart 5 also depicts the interesting differences between Fall 1996 and Spring 1997 enrollment patterns by age group. The comparison of Fall 1996 to Spring 1997 demonstrates the higher enrollment of those students under 20 years of age during the Fall semester. The proportion of enrolled students 20-and-under was 26.3% in the Fall 1996 semester compared to 19.2% in Spring 1997. An analysis of freshmen data supports the enrollment trend of higher proportions of newly enrolled 1996 high school graduates for the fall semester as compared to spring. Fall 1996 Los Rios enrollment of 1996 high school graduates was 39.4% higher than in Spring 1997. There is a higher proportion of newly enrolled high school graduates in Fall 1996 (9.9%) than found in Spring 1997 enrollment proportions (7.0%).

The individual Los Rios colleges proportional enrollment by age group generally mirrors the District enrollment pattern. The CRC campus is the one campus that has a slightly different enrollment pattern based upon age. In particular, CRC enrolls a slightly higher proportion of students 20-and-under, 20.9% compared to the District's 19.2%. The proportion of enrolled students 25-39 is 32.8% at CRC, compared to the higher proportion of 37.3% district-wide. Students at CRC who are 40-and-over are enrolled in higher proportions than District proportions -- 26.1% at CRC compared to 22.0% district-wide.

District Enrollment by Day and Evening

Chart 6 illustrates the proportions of day and evening attendance for Spring 1997. Attendance patterns at each of the District's colleges vary distinctly, as illustrated in Chart 6. A large proportion of ARC students (47.6%) attend day only classes. At CRC, the distribution of day and evening enrollment is fairly even at 38.3% and 36.9%, respectively. Day classes have the highest enrollment proportion at SCC with 57.4% of their students enrolled in day only classes.

Chart 6: Spring 1997 Enrollment by Day and Evening Attendance

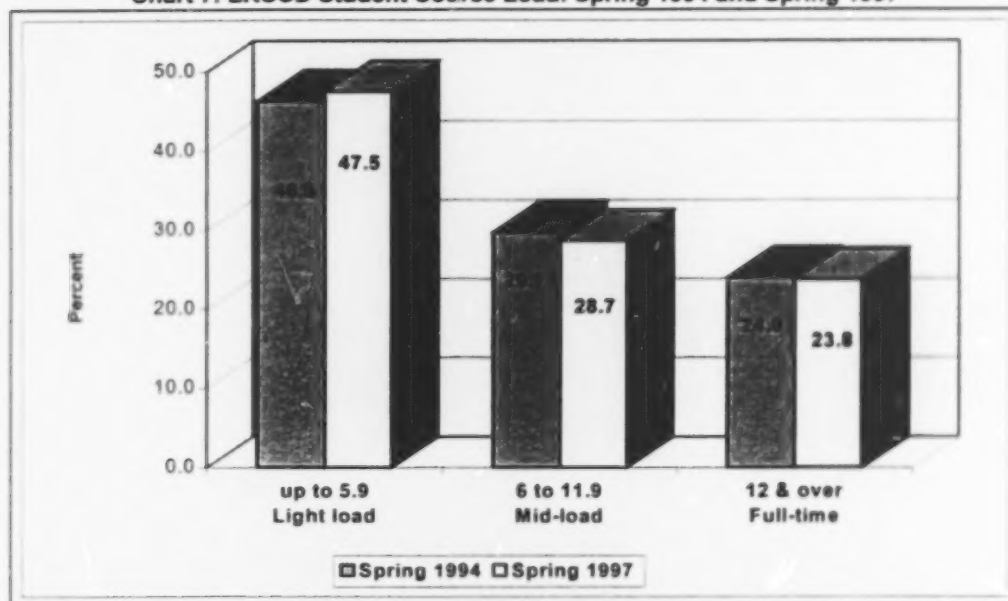


An analysis of Spring 1994 to Spring 1997 proportional enrollment of students attending *both* day and evening classes results in a relatively stable enrollment pattern at each of the three Los Rios colleges. The most significant change was in the proportion of ARC students enrolled in both day and evening classes, which increased 4.8% from Spring 1994 to Spring 1997.

Unit Load by District Students

Three categories of unit-load are used in Chart 7 to demonstrate the District trends in students' course loads in the Spring semesters. "Light load" students are those taking fewer than six units; "mid-load" students are those taking six to 11.9 units; and "full-time" students are those with 12 or more units. The majority of Los Rios students are part-time (light and mid-load students) comprising 76.2% of enrolled students in the Spring 1997. The majority of part-time students, 47.5%, take under 6 units. The proportion of students taking full-time loads has remained constant decreasing only 0.2%, from 24.0% in Spring 1994 to 23.8% of Spring 1997.

Chart 7: LRCCD Student Course Load: Spring 1994 and Spring 1997



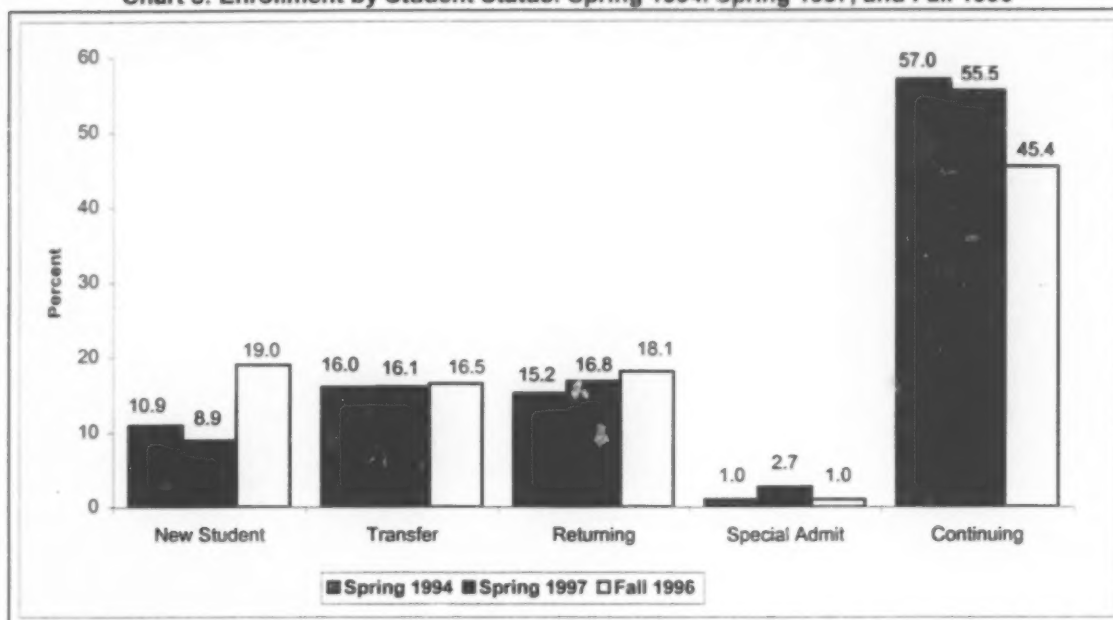
Among the District's colleges, Sacramento City College has the highest proportion of full-time students (26.3%) in Spring 1997. American River College has 23.8%, and Cosumnes River College has 22.4%.

Fall 1996 enrollment pattern by unit load resulted in a slightly higher proportion of full-time students, 25.1% in Fall 1996 compared to 23.8% in Spring 1997. It remains clear that each of the colleges are still predominantly part-time institutions.

Enrollment by Student Status

Chart 8 demonstrates the proportional enrollment of the Los Rios student population by student status. The proportion of new Los Rios' students (never before enrolled) decreased, from 10.9% in Spring 1994 to 8.9% in Spring 1997. The proportion of students who have transferred from another 2 year or 4 year institution remains stable from Spring 1994 to Spring 1997. A returning student is defined as either a student who is returning after an absence and did not attend another college since leaving and former students with the district who attended another two-year or 4-year institution. The proportion of returning students increased somewhat from Spring 1994 to Spring 1997, from 15.2% to 16.8% respectively. Students defined as Special Admits increased from 1.0% of total enrollment in Spring 1994 to 2.7% in Spring 1997. There was a decrease in the proportion of continuing students, from 57.0% of enrollment in Spring 1994 to 55.5% in Spring 1997.

Chart 8: Enrollment by Student Status: Spring 1994, Spring 1997, and Fall 1996

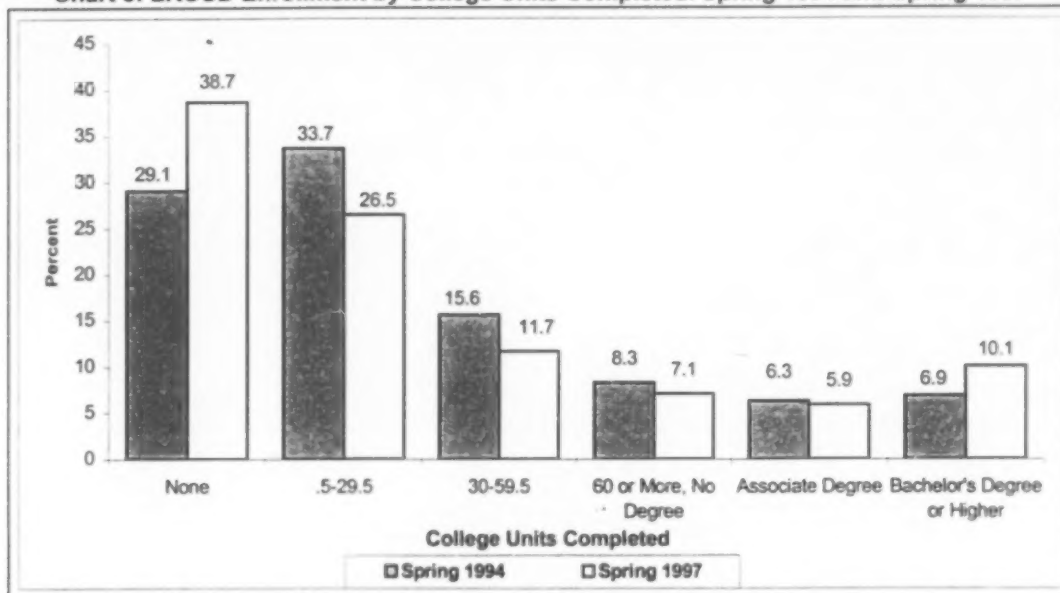


As can be expected fall enrollment by student status is somewhat different than spring enrollment patterns. There is a higher proportion of new students in the fall than in the spring, 19.0% in Fall 1996 compared to 8.9% in Spring 1997. As the chart illustrates the proportion of transfer students remains stable from fall to spring, but there is a higher proportion of returning students in the fall, 18.1% of enrollment in Fall 1996 compared to 16.8% in Spring 1997. The proportion of continuing students is much higher in Spring 1997 (57.0%) than in Fall 1996 (45.4%).

Enrollment Based on College Units Completed

Los Rios enrollment based upon college units completed has experienced some changes from Spring 1994 to Spring semester 1997. As demonstrated in Chart 9, students who have no previous college units enrolled in Los Rios colleges increased from 29.1% in Spring 1994 to 38.7% in Spring 1997. There were decreases districtwide in each of the categories in which students had completed at least some college units (ranging from .5 to 59.5 college units completed). The proportion of students enrolled who have an associates degree remained fairly stable, decreasing from 6.3% of enrollment in Spring 1994 to 5.9% in Spring 1997. But LRCCD experienced increased enrollment by students who have a Baccalaureate degree or higher, from 6.9% of enrollment in Spring 1994 to 10.1% of enrollment in Spring 1997. The "differential" fee of an additional \$40 per unit for students already holding a Baccalaureate degree which was initially established in Spring 1993 was eliminated in Spring 1995. The effect of the elimination of the "differential" fee is clearly demonstrated when comparing Spring 1995 to Spring 1996 enrollment of those students with a bachelor's degree, increasing from 6.5% of enrollment in Spring 1995 to 10.4% of enrollment in Spring 1996.

Chart 9: LRCCD Enrollment by College Units Completed: Spring 1994 and Spring 1997



Spring 1997 is reflective of Fall 1996 enrollment patterns by college units already completed. Fall 1996 had a higher proportion (41.0%) of students with no college units completed. Each of the other categories remained the same from Fall 1996 to Spring 1997 or experienced a less than 1% change in enrollment proportions.

Conclusions

The data presented in the first Spring Profile illustrates the overall stability of Los Rios Community College District's enrollment patterns as well as the changing demography of particular areas of enrollment. There continues to be demographic changes in the ethnic minority enrollment mix at the Los Rios colleges. Ethnic minority students increased from 36.9% in Spring 1994 to 39.6% of enrollment in Spring 1997. Spring 1997 finds a slightly higher proportion of women enrolled (56.3%) than there were in Spring 1994 (54.7%). LRCCD enrollment by age depicts variations not only in the historical data from Spring 1994 to Spring 1997 but during the 1996-97 academic year as well. The trend in higher proportions of students enrolled who are 40-and-over continued to increase from Spring 1994 through Spring 1997, by 3.2%. Fall 1996 enrollment results in a higher proportion of students 20-and-under, while the Spring 1997 semester enrolled a higher proportion of students 40-and-over. Day and Evening attendance patterns for the District have remained relatively stable for each of the Spring semesters analyzed. As one would expect, spring enrollment reflects a higher proportion of continuing students, while fall experiences a higher proportion of new students. The unit load for Los Rios students has remained constant, fluctuating less than 1% from Spring 1994 through Spring 1997. Spring 1997 data illustrates an increase in enrollment of students who have no previous college units as well as a substantial growth in the proportions of those students who have a Baccalaureate Degrees or higher, which may correspond to the age enrollment patterns within the District.

The Spring 1997 demographic profile is based on unduplicated student demographics generated from the official Spring End of Semester research database. Of interest is the increase in the number of duplicate students, those students attending more than one Los Rios college. The number of duplicate enrollees increased from approximately 1,021 students in Spring 1994 to approximately 1,283 duplicated students in Spring 1997, a 25.7% increase.

The capability to report both the areas of demographic stability as well as shifts is imperative in the Los Rios Community College District's continuing efforts to meet current student needs as well as to address the needs of future student populations.

This report was written by Betty Glycer-Culver, Temporary Research Analyst, and is based on data generated from the LRCCD Research Database, developed and managed by Minh La, Systems Hardware and Software Performance Analyst.

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Spring Profile